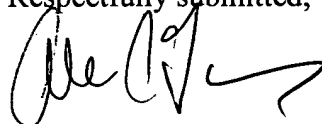


CONCLUSION

Even though separate nucleotide sequences are generally considered "independent and distinct inventions," the alleged multiple inventions of Claim 11 fall within an exception to that rule that allows up to ten separate nucleotide sequences to be claimed in a single invention. See MPEP § 803.04. Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be removed with respect to Claims 11-15, and that the claims be examined on the merits. Should questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicant's attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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